

United States District Court  
STATE AND DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

MATTHEW BRADLEY DEPALMA

**WARRANT FOR ARREST**

Case Number:

08-MJ-356 AJB

TO: The United States Marshal  
and any Authorized United States Officer

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest **MATTHEW BRADLEY DEPALMA**

and bring him or her forthwith to the nearest magistrate to answer a(n)

☐ Indictment ☐ Information ☒ Complaint ☐ Order of court ☐ Violation Notice ☐ Probation Violation Petition  
charging

From on or about at least August 22, 2008, through the present, in the State and District of Minnesota, the defendant knowingly and intentionally possessed firearms, namely Molotov cocktails, that were not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record

in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 5861(d).

The Honorable Arthur J. Boylan  
NAME OF ISSUING OFFICER

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

TITLE OF ISSUING OFFICER

SIGNATURE OF ISSUING OFFICER

8/27/08

Minneapolis, MN

DATE AND LOCATION

Bail fixed at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN**

This warrant was received and executed with the arrest of the above-named defendant at \_\_\_\_\_

DATE RECEIVED	NAME AND TITLE OF ARRESTING OFFICER	SIGNATURE OF ARRESTING OFFICER
DATE OF ARREST		

**THE FOLLOWING IS FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION ONLY:**

DEFENDANT'S NAME: Matthew Bradley Depalma

ALIAS: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST KNOWN RESIDENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST KNOWN EMPLOYMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ WEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_

SEX: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_

HAIR: \_\_\_\_\_ EYES: \_\_\_\_\_

SCARS, TATTOOS, OTHER DISTINGUISHING MARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

FBI NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF AUTO: \_\_\_\_\_

INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY AND ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

United States District Court  
STATE AND DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

MATTHEW BRADLEY DEPALMA

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

Case Number:

08-MJ-356 AJB

I, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. From on or about at least August 22, 2008, through the present, in the State and District of Minnesota, defendant, Matthew Bradley DePalma,

knowingly and intentionally possessed firearms, namely Molotov cocktails, that were not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record

in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 5861(d).

I further state that I am a(n) Special Agent and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence,

Date

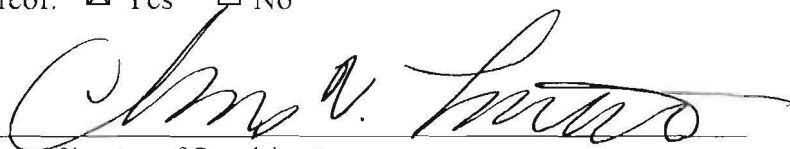
The Honorable Arthur J. Boylan  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Name & Title of Judicial Officer

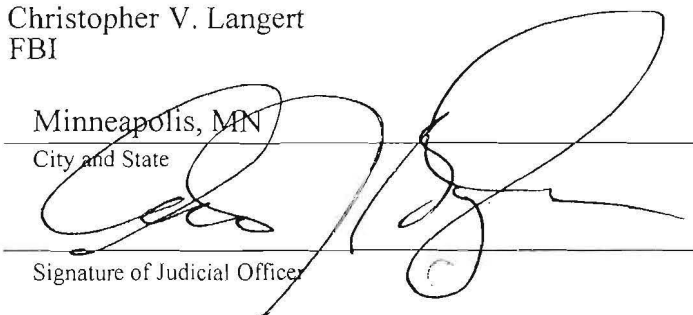
at

Minneapolis, MN  
City and State

Signature of Judicial Officer



Signature of Complainant  
Christopher V. Langert  
FBI



STATE OF MINNESOTA    )  
                              ) ss.  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN    )

**AFFIDAVIT OF SPECIAL AGENT  
CHRISTOPHER V. LANGERT**

Christopher V. Langert, being first duly sworn, states as follows:

1. I am a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been so employed for 10 years. This affidavit is based on personal knowledge as well as information related to me by other investigating officers.

2. For the past five months, I have been working with a confidential source (CS) who is in a position to provide information about persons who are intent upon disrupting the Republican National Convention (RNC) to be held in St. Paul, Minnesota, from September 1 through September 4, 2008. I have worked with the CS on a regular basis and have found the CS to be extremely reliable. Much of the CS's information has been corroborated by audio and video surveillance, as described below.

3. In July 2008, the CS was at the CrimeThinc Convergence near Waldo, Wisconsin. This was a gathering that included a number of members of the Republican National Convention Welcoming Committee, an organization that has described itself publicly as being committed to disrupting the RNC. The CS met Matthew Bradley DePalma at this gathering. DePalma stated his intention to travel to Minnesota to attend the RNC. He also expressed his desire to "make some bombs" and "blow shit up" during the RNC. The CS told DePalma to look the CS up if and when DePalma decided to travel to the Twin Cities.

4. On August 15, 2008, the CS learned that DePalma was in Minneapolis and arranged a meeting with DePalma at the CS's residence located in Minneapolis. This meeting was audio and video recorded by the FBI with the consent of the CS. During this initial meeting, DePalma expressed his desire to build a chemical bomb that he could use to cause a power outage at the Xcel Center, the site of the RNC. DePalma stated that the CS's apartment would be a good place to make the bomb but cautioned that they would have to be careful because "there is a lot of Weathermen that got turned into confetti trying this." DePalma also discussed his desire to make Molotov cocktails, describing in great detail the use of ingredients that would make the flammable liquid more viscous so that it would stick to the target and burn longer and hotter than an ordinary gasoline-based Molotov cocktail.

5. On August 18, 2008, DePalma, accompanied by the CS, went to the Hennepin County Library and spent 1 1/2 hours researching recipes for explosive devices. DePalma produced a handwritten list of items he would need to construct "special" Molotov cocktails that would stick to people and other targets.

6. On August 20, 2008, DePalma and the CS had a series of conversations that were recorded by the FBI with the CS's consent. DePalma described a plan to place a bomb near the Xcel Center in St. Paul during the Republican Convention in an effort to disrupt the convention. DePalma's plan involved entering the tunnels near the Xcel Center and using either Molotov cocktails or a chemical

bomb to destroy electrical cables and cause a power outage at the Xcel Center. He also described a related plan to use napalm-filled Molotov cocktails on the streets against police officers stating, "I will light one of those pigs on fire."

7. On August 21, 2008, DePalma had the CS drive DePalma to different stores where DePalma obtained some supplies he needed for making Molotov cocktails. On the afternoon of August 22, 2008, the CS took DePalma to a gas station in South Minneapolis. At the gas station, DePalma paid \$10 for gas and diesel fuel. He placed the gas in one container and the diesel in another.

8. On August 22, 2008, while at the CS's residence and in the CS's presence, DePalma manufactured two jugs of a homemade napalm-like substance for use in Molotov cocktails. He combined diesel fuel with other ingredients to create a flammable gelatin. DePalma then described to the CS the proper technique for throwing a Molotov cocktail to obtain the best explosion. DePalma also experimented with using tampons as wicks for the Molotov cocktails, lighting several of them and testing their burn time with and without first dipping them in gasoline. DePalma also continued to discuss his desire to make a bomb for use at the Xcel Center on either September 1 (the opening day of the convention) or September 4 (the last day). DePalma stated that, if he can bomb the Xcel Center on September 1, "they might call it off," referring to the convention. He added that "a power outage would say a lot" and that it is "my main purpose." Alternatively, DePalma stated that

he would like to bomb the Xcel Center on September 4 so that the convention would "end with a bang." DePalma's actions and comments were recorded through video and audio surveillance.

9. On August 22, 2008, at approximately 11:00 p.m., DePalma and the CS traveled to a remote location in Rosemount, Minnesota, for the purpose of DePalma assembling and testing Molotov cocktails. FBI agents were able to monitor this activity remotely through audio and video recording equipment supplied to the CS. Once at the location, DePalma assembled two Molotov cocktails by pouring some of the napalm he had previously manufactured into a glass container and adding a tampon wick. DePalma then lit and threw the first Molotov cocktail. The glass broke but the liquid did not ignite or explode. DePalma expressed frustration and stated that he should have let the wick burn longer before throwing the device. He stated that he will not accept failure, adding "that can't happen in the streets, dude; that would be so fucking embarrassing." A few minutes later, DePalma lit and threw a second Molotov cocktail. This time, the device exploded and burned. DePalma expressed his satisfaction, telling the CS "that was a cut above the average Molotov, I think."

10. On the night of August 25, 2008, DePalma went to a remote location in Roseville for the purpose of experimenting with chemicals for a chemical bomb. He was arrested by local police for trespassing. DePalma was in possession of chlorine and a substance DePalma believed was glycerine. DePalma was held overnight but

released on August 26, 2008. The only charge at this point is for trespassing.

11. Subsequent conversations between DePalma and the CS show that DePalma has not abandoned his plans to disrupt the RNC with Molotov cocktails and/or a chemical bomb. As of the evening of August 27, 2008, your affiant personally confirmed by visiting the CS's residence that DePalma still has the ingredients for additional Molotov cocktails stored at the CS's residence in Minneapolis, including bottles, wicks, and flammable liquids.

12. During the early morning hours of August 28, 2008, DePalma manufactured three additional Molotov cocktails at the CS's residence believing that the CS would provide them to other people in furtherance of those individuals' plans to disrupt the RNC. This was captured on audio and videotape. These three devices are now in the possession of the FBI and appear, subject to additional laboratory testing, to be Molotov cocktails in that they each consist of a glass bottle with a wick filled with a liquid that smells like gasoline.

13. Federal law makes it a felony for a person to "receive or possess a firearm which is not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record." 26 U.S.C. § 5861(d). The term "firearm" includes a destructive device. 26 U.S.C. § 5845(a). The term "destructive device" in turn means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas . . . bomb . . . ." 26 U.S.C. § 5845(f). The term "destructive device" also includes "any

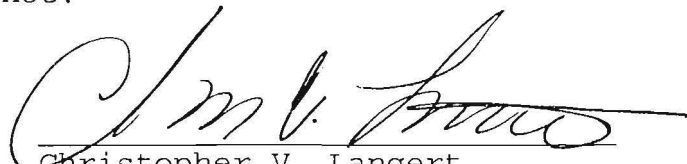


combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device . . . and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled." Id. I am aware that assembled Molotov cocktails qualify as destructive devices under this statute. I am also aware that unassembled Molotov cocktails have been held to constitute destructive devices under the latter definition relating to any combination of parts from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

14. The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota caused a check to be made of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, which is maintained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. As of August 28, 2008, that check revealed that there have not been during the relevant time period any firearms as defined above registered to Matthew Bradley DePalma.

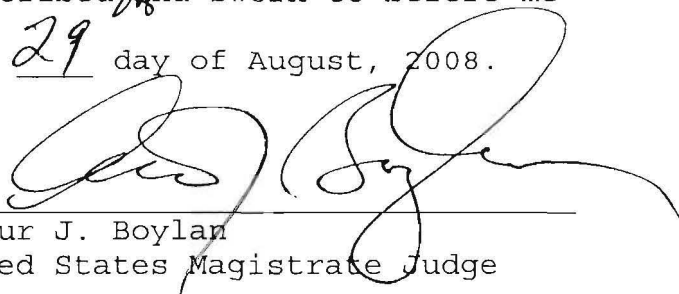
15. Based on the foregoing facts, I believe there is probable cause that Matthew Bradley DePalma possessed on August 22, 2008, and August 28, 2008 a total of five Molotov cocktails that were not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record as required by law. I also believe there is probable cause that DePalma continues to possess component parts that can readily be assembled into one or more Molotov cocktails, which component parts are not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

Further your affiant sayeth not.



Christopher V. Langert  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed ~~and~~ sworn to before me  
this 29 day of August, 2008.



Arthur J. Boylan  
United States Magistrate Judge